

 Seattle Department of

**Neighborhoods**



Parks & Neighborhoods Committee Presentation

# **DON Public Outreach & Engagement Liaison (POEL) Program**

**June 20, 2013**

# Introduction

## Public Outreach and Engagement Liaison (POEL) Program

Addresses the city's desire for meaningful inclusion of all people, including historically underrepresented communities (HUCs)\* in civic participation and their right to be informed.

\*Low-income, people of color, immigrants and refugees, seniors, people living with disabilities, renters, businesses, and youth.



# Public Outreach and Engagement Liaisons (POELs)

- Expert “bridge-builders” who are part of their respective community’s cultures, fluent in their languages, and bi-cultural and bi-lingual.
- Neutral, quality, trusted, respectful, accountable
- Recruited, trained and supported by city staff
- Contracted with Seattle Neighborhood Group
- Employed in other jobs
- Referred by community members



# HUCs served by POEL Program

- Afaan-Oromo
- African American
- Amharic
- Cambodian - Khmer
- Chinese - Mandarin & Cantonese
- Filipino - Tagalog
- Hmong
- Laotian
- Latino
- Mien
- Native American
- People Living with Disabilities
- Renters
- Seniors
- Small businesses
- Somalis
- Tigrinya
- Vietnamese
- Youth



# POELs

Have capacity to perform:

- Facilitation
- Presentation
- Event planning
- Simultaneous interpretation
- Translation/transliteration



# 2012 POEL Outcomes

- 23 trained POELS in 12 language / cultural groups
- 700+ community members served
- 8 projects completed



# 2013 POEL Projects

- Safe Communities(MO, SPD and OIRA)
- H-Frame Replacement (SCL)
- Shared Multi-cultural Community Center (DPD/DON)
- Othello/Graham Commercial Stabilization and Retail Study Update (OED)





# 2013 POEL Projects

- Neighborhood Plan Updates (DPD)
  - 23<sup>rd</sup> Ave. Action Plan at Jackson/Cherry/Union
- Rainier Beach Crime Prevention Hot Spots – (SYVPI)
- Lake City Community Center Needs Assessment (DPR)





# Departmental Requests for DON POEL Services

- Submit POEL Request Form to DON (6 months prior)
- DON and department negotiate budget and scope of work
- POE staff provides technical assistance on outreach/engagement strategies
- Assign relevant POELS
- POELs receive topical orientation

